

THE LONG ISLAND BEACON (NY)
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From The Lion's Mouth

by Stephen Rock

This past Friday, May 1, some forty students from the West Islip High School endured twelve hours on a bus to visit the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The students, all seniors, are enrolled in International Relations II and at the CIA building, the less commonly known side of current world affairs, relevant to the class's studies, were discussed.

The first portion of the afternoon's program consisted of a multi-media program about the CIA and a talk on international intelligence. According to Mr. Paul Creitian, CIA Public Affairs Chief, taxpayers' money is not being wasted on any American James Bond type spies. He painted a picture of an enjoyable and rewarding, but still very ordinary nine to five career in America's foreign intelligence agency. Not all the work is glamorous, but a career in the Agency was made to seem very attractive.

For the second part of the program, we returned for a talk on a specific aspect of CIA work, photographic intelligence. In addition to the elaborate and expensive photoanalytic equipment placed in the auditorium for the students' use, Dr. Dino Brugioni spoke on the importance of photographic interpretation and analysis and America's two best "spy" planes, the U2 of Gary Francis Powers fame and the SR71. We were shown how the Soviet missiles of 1962 were discovered in Cuba and how the precarious Middle East peace is observed and maintained. Then, Mr. Brugioni showed how he, on his own time, was able to prove the existence of the German death camps of World War II through the analysis of photographs taken on US bombing raids. These photographs substantiate the horrors of the Holocaust.

Then Mr. Brugioni moved on to the topic of photo fakery. He demonstrated how the Soviet Union alters photographs to suit their own purposes and how to detect an altered photo.

West Islip International Relations students have had the opportunity to make this field trip for the past four years thanks to the initiative of the IR teacher, Dr. Steven Carol. Less than 1,000 Americans during that time have had the privilege of attending such a session. Dr. Carol's efforts were brought to the attention of then director Adm. Stanfield Turner who invited the IR classes to attend these briefings. Dr. Carol's class is the only high school class in the nation to be thus invited.

To all potential IR students, take the class so will be able to make the trip. A chance to visit the Central Intelligence Agency and see where countless tax dollars go is a rare opportunity; there are forty people who are glad we did.

One last point, if anyone from the Agency is reading this, I didn't mean what I said in the rest room about the Bay of Pigs and Project Ajax, honest, I swear, really ...